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SOCIOLOGY

KELSEY, CARL. *The Physical Basis of Society*. Pp. xvi, 406. Price, \$2.00. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1916.

In this book Professor Kelsey has not attempted to say anything new but to bring together a mass of knowledge which has never before been assembled between two covers. To lay a proper foundation for the study of society he sets forth what we know as to the relation between man and his physical environment, the control of nature, the evolution of man, heredity, eugenics, race differences, sex differences, the influence of society upon population, social institutions and the nature of progress. From the writings of the specialists on geography, natural history, biology, ethnography and criminal anthropology, he has gleaned, arranged and intelligently interpreted experiments and observations not easily accessible to the student. The style is clear and interesting, the treatment concrete and summary, the attitude objective and the spirit impartial. The author shows open-mindedness and sound judgment, and, in dealing with controverted matters, takes pains to give the evidence on both sides. He proves himself skilful in guiding the reader through a great body of data often ambiguous or conflicting. The book will be welcomed by teachers of sociology who have felt the need of an introductory text leading up to sociology proper. I can imagine no better use of Professor Kelsey's book than putting the class through it during the first part of a course in general sociology.

E. A. R.

LE BON, GUSTAVE. *The Psychology of the Great War*. (Trans. by E. Andrews.) Pp. 480. Price, \$3.00. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1916.

To those who are familiar with the previous writings of the author, the present volume will be something of a disappointment. The keen psychological analysis is present, as in *The Psychology of Revolutions*, but one misses the poise and balanced judgment. It is a splendid example of the influence of war upon even the scholarly mind. The writer is too near the events and too much concerned in the outcome to judge without prejudice. In Books I, V and VII devoted respectively to Psychological Principles Necessary for the Interpretation of the Present War, Psychological Forces Involved in Battles, and Unknown Quantities in Warfare, we find the unbiased analysis of the psychologist, while in Books II, III, IV and VI containing the description of Germany's Evolution in Modern Times, Remote Causes of the War, The Immediate Causes of the War, and Psychological Elements in German Methods of Warfare we find the perfectly natural but partisan reactions of the French nationalist. However much one may sympathize with the feelings of the author, nevertheless in a scientific psychological treatise on the war an analysis of the methods of all the nations involved should certainly be included. In other words, it should not be left to each nation to describe the psychology of the antagonist. It is unfortunate that such a volume as this purports to be, as judged by its title, should not have been deferred until the passions aroused by war had subsided so that a calm and balanced psychological

analysis of the whole conflict, not from the nationalist but from the internationalist point of view, could have been presented.

J. P. L.

MINER, MAUDE E. *Slavery of Prostitution*. Pp. xi, 308. Price, \$1.50. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1916.

Those who have known Maude Miner's work as Secretary of the Probation and Protective Association of New York will be especially interested in this summary of her many years' experience in work for delinquent girls. The book is written from a personal rather than from a scientific point of view and for that reason is valuable as a supplement to the various treatises and reports of vice commissions that have been issued on the subject of prostitution. The author shows that prostitution is not an isolated evil that can be abolished by direct methods of attack. She discusses its relation to housing conditions, industrial maladjustment and lack of recreation facilities, as well as to evil companionship and mental defect. It would have been well if she had also discussed the reverse side of the picture—the effect on the community of a policy of toleration. The distress of the individual woman is perhaps over-emphasized, to the exclusion of the more significant social effects of the evil that has enslaved her. The fact that the book is popular in form, free from sordid details, and gives much space to a program of prevention, makes it especially useful for laymen who are interested in modern methods of prevention and correction of delinquency.

H. G.